

Best Management Practices

Missouri Department of
Conservation

Virginia sneezeweed

Helenium virginicum

Common name ▪ Virginia sneezeweed

Scientific name ▪ *Helenium virginicum*

State status ▪ Threatened

Federal status ▪ Threatened

Ecology

Limited habitat in two Virginia counties and five southern Missouri counties make up this species' entire global range. There are currently about 25 occurrences of the species in Virginia and 40 in Missouri. Preferred habitat includes shorelines and plains around sinkholes, low lying fields and wet meadows. Several populations in Missouri are located on lands owned by the Missouri Department of Conservation and are protected. Five populations in Virginia are protected. The sneezeweed is a herbaceous, fibrous-rooted perennial that when mature, ranges from 4-11 dm. in height. The flower ray petals are yellow and wedge shaped with three lobes at the ends. Central disk is nearly ball-shaped. Cluster of golden-yellow flower heads bloom from July to September. Peak flowering occurs in late July to early August. Primary insect pollinators are believed to be bees, wasps, butterflies and hoverflies.

Reasons for Decline

Existing populations are primarily threatened by human-induced disruptions of hydrologic regimes, particularly by encroaching agriculture and residential land development. Exotic organisms may also pose threats to sneezeweed populations in the near future.



Recommendations

The key to survival of this species is the protection of habitat and maintenance of natural hydrologic regimes.

Beneficial Practices

- ☐ Monitor all populations and study disturbed sites to determine long-term viability of populations.
- ☐ Restore natural hydrologic regime.
- ☐ The wetland areas where Virginia sneezeweed is found need to be protected in order to protect its habitat.

Adverse Practices

- ☐ Mowing of Virginia sneezeweed populations the July through September growing period.
- ☐ Filling, ditching, or removing natural substrates from sites where Virginia sneezeweed occurs.
- ☐ Application of non-specific herbicides.

Information Contacts

For further information regarding regulations for development in rivers and streams, contact:

Missouri Department of Conservation
Policy Coordination Section
P.O. Box 180
2901 W. Truman Blvd
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180
Telephone: 573/751-4115

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Division of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176
Telephone: 573/526-3315

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Branch
700 Federal Building
Kansas City, MO 64106-2896
Telephone: 816/983-3990

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Water, Wetlands, and Pesticides Division
901 North 5th Street
Kansas City, KS 66101
Telephone: 973/551-7307

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ecological Services Field Office
101 Park DeVillie Dr., Suite A
Columbia, MO 65203
Telephone: 573/876-1911

under the Clean Water Act, with compliance issues resolved in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Legal

These Best Management Practices were prepared by the Missouri Department of Conservation with assistance from other state agencies, contractors, and others to provide guidance to those people who wish to voluntarily act to protect wildlife and habitat.

Compliance with Best Management Practices is not required by the Missouri wildlife and forestry law nor by any regulation of the Missouri Conservation Commission. Other federal, state or local laws may affect construction practices.

“State Endangered Status” is determined by the Missouri Conservation Commission under constitutional authority, and specific requirements for impacts to such species are expressed in the Missouri Wildlife Code, rule 3CSR10-4.111.

Species listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act must be considered in projects receiving federal funds or requiring permits